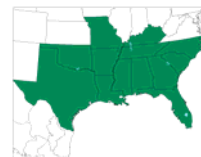


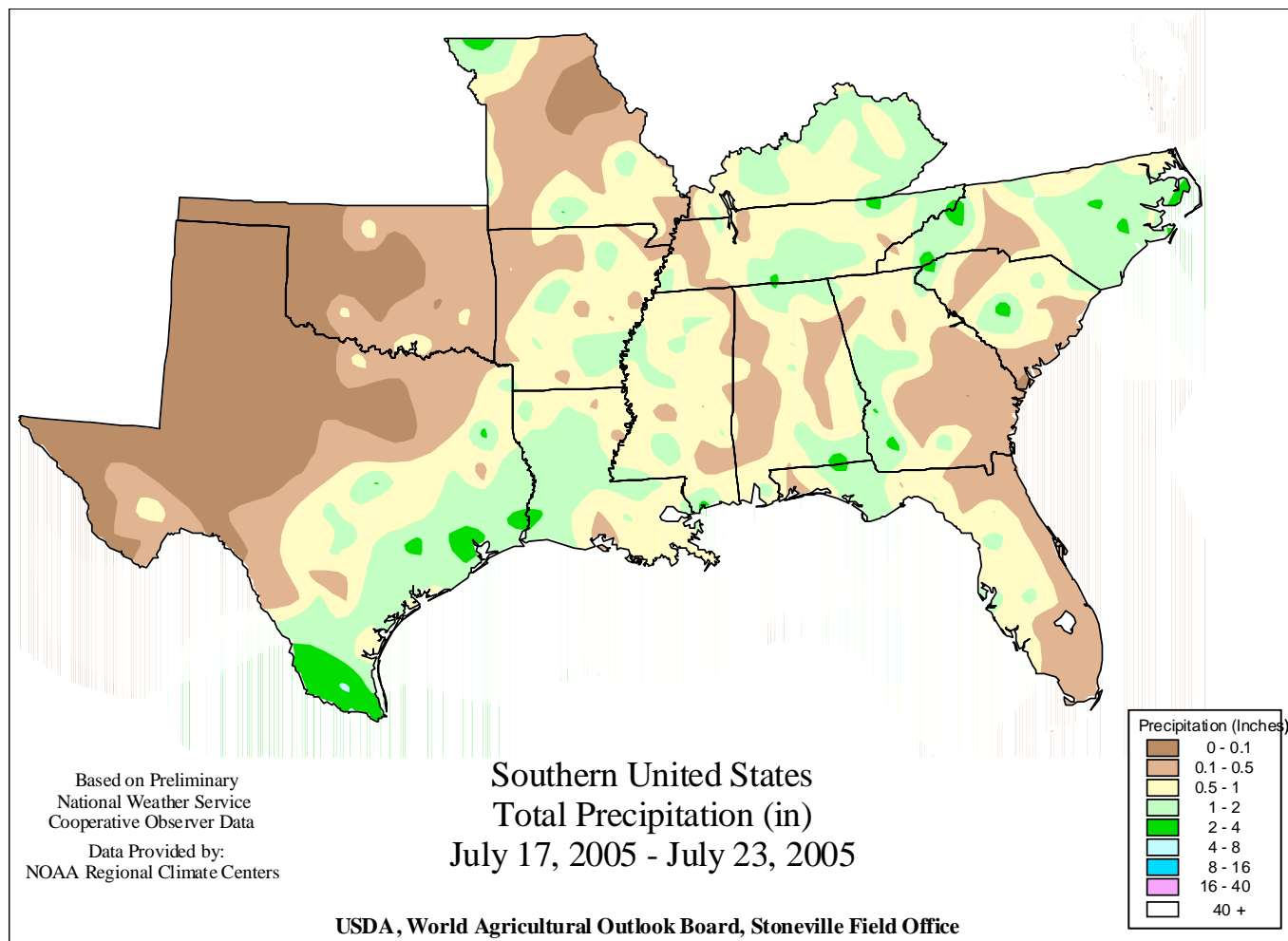


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

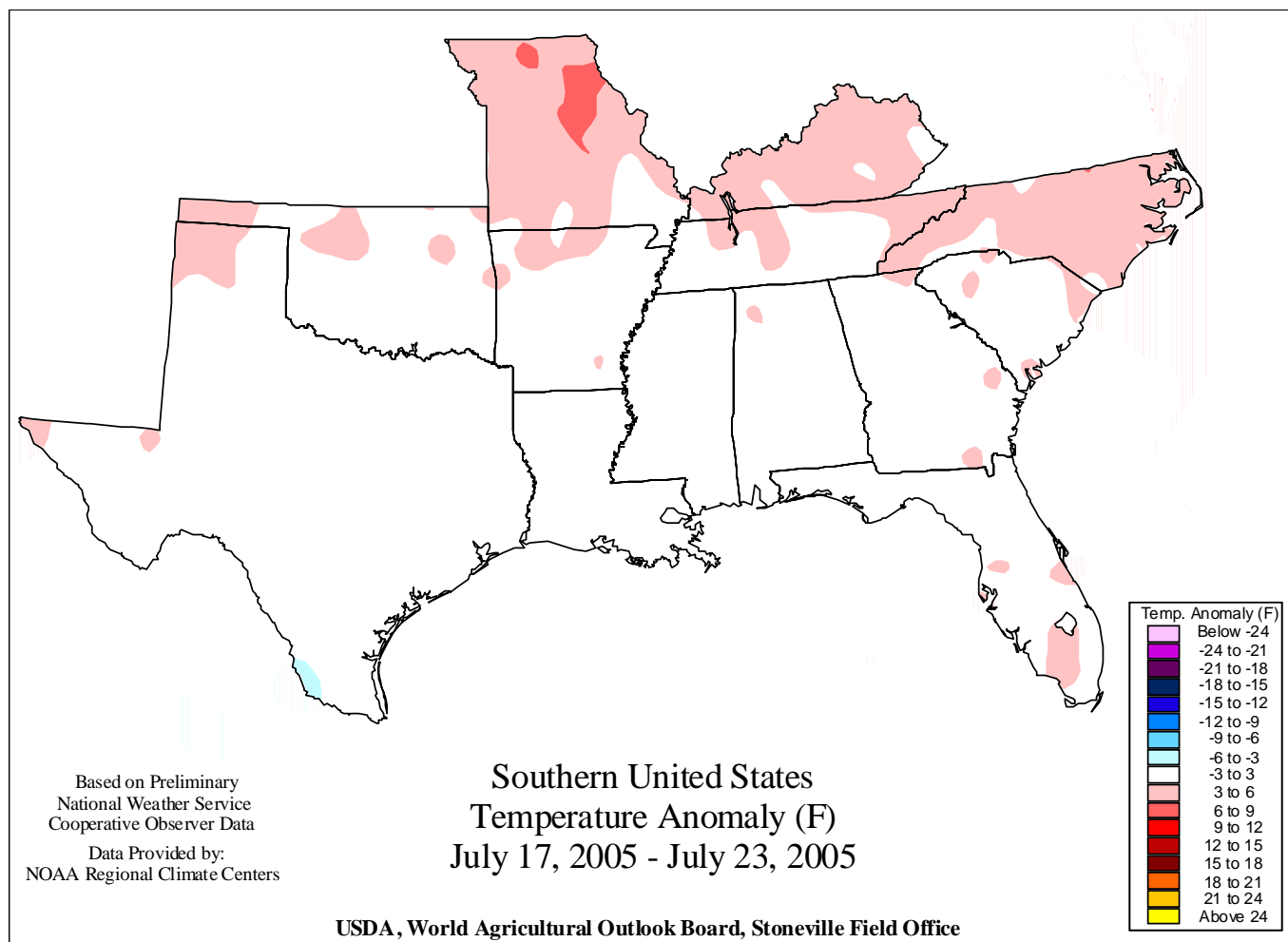
July 17 to July 23, 2005



Weather Highlights

Hurricane Emily was this week's highlight, making landfall in northeastern Mexico, about 75 miles south of Brownsville, Texas. Emily brought wind gusts over 60 m.p.h. and rain in excess of 4 inches to the lower Rio Grand Valley during the beginning of their corn, sorghum, and cotton harvest season. Elsewhere, scattered showers and thunderstorms provided mostly beneficial moisture across parts of the southern states. Oklahoma, western Texas, and the majority of Missouri received little to no rainfall. Despite beneficial rainfall in some areas, drought continued across portions of the Mississippi Delta along with eastern Texas, much of southern and eastern Oklahoma, western Louisiana, and most of Arkansas and Missouri.

Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in most areas, but were slightly above normal in Missouri, Kentucky, and North Carolina, along with localized areas in some of the other southern states. In a small portion of northern Missouri that remained hot and dry, temperatures averaged 6 to 9 degrees F above normal.



The Mississippi Delta had normal temperatures and scattered rain showers and thunderstorms several days during the week. The showers and thunderstorms produced localized rain amounts of 1 to 2 inches. There were reports of crop damage associated with some of the thunderstorms, as winds lodged mature corn in isolated areas. The central Delta was still considered to be in drought, ranging in intensity from abnormally dry to severe. There were areas in the Delta that continued to irrigate, and had drought stressed crops maturing early.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
		July 24, 2005	July 17, 2005	July 24, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Squaring	89	82	92	91
	Setting Bolls	49	35	62	62
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	61	60	67	---
Corn	Silking	79	49	69	65
	Dough	14	6	17	13
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	53	55	77	---
Rice	Headed	29	19	36	38
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	61	60	68	---
Soybeans	Blooming	81	63	71	68
	Setting Pods	36	16	30	26
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	54	53	69	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were setting on 49 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 62 percent for last year and the 5-year average. This year's boll setting pace was behind the 5-year average in all southern states, except Tennessee and Arkansas. Arkansas, which had 88 percent of the crop setting bolls, was three points ahead of their 5-year average. Tennessee, which had 73 percent of the crop setting bolls, progressed to 10 points ahead of their 5-year average after an additional 25 percent of their acreage began setting bolls this week. Nationally, crop conditions improved 1 point from last week to 61 percent rated good to excellent.

Corn:

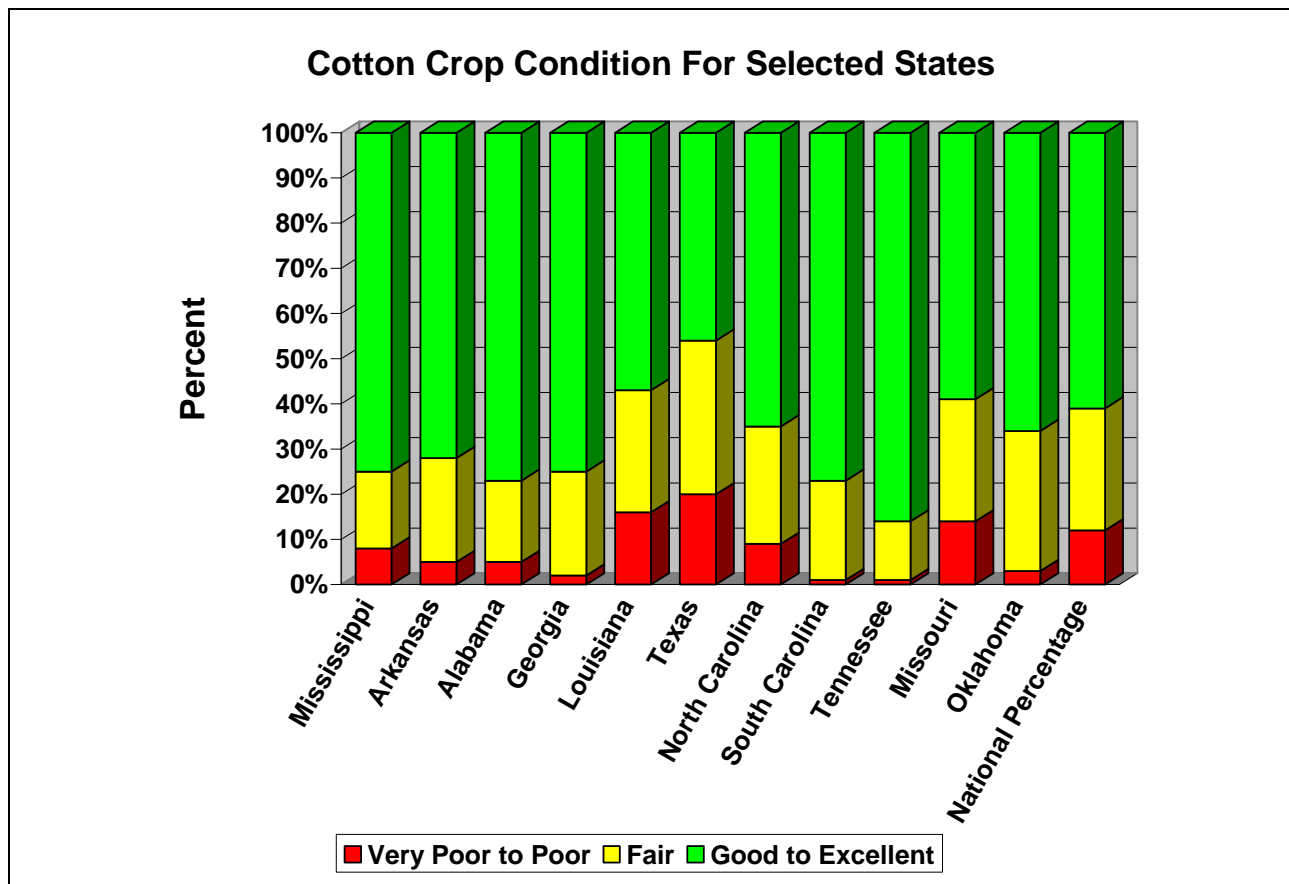
Silking advanced nationally to 79 percent complete, 10 points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the crop was considered to be in good to excellent condition, down 2 points from last week. The southern states' corn crop was most advanced in Texas, with 46 percent mature and 11 percent harvested. In Louisiana, 49 percent of the crop was mature.

Rice:

Nationally, 29 percent of the acreage had headed, 7 points behind last year's pace and 9 points behind the 5-year average. All states trailed behind their 5-year average pace, except Missouri. Missouri, at 31 percent headed, was 16 points ahead of their 5-year average. Sixty-one percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, gaining 1 point from last week. Mississippi continued to lead all states with 91 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, an improvement of 6 percentage points from last week.

Soybeans:

Eighty-one percent of the nation's crop was blooming, ahead of last year by 10 points and the 5-year average by 13 points. Pods were set on 36 percent of the acreage, 6 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop conditions improved from last week by 1 percentage point, with 54 percent of the crop rated at a good to excellent condition. Southern states' soybean crops ranged from turning colors in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, to zero acres setting pods in North Carolina.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, the cotton crop's condition improved 1 point to 61 percent rated good to excellent. Eighty-six percent of Tennessee's acreage was rated good to excellent, leading all southern states. South Carolina and Alabama, both with 77 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, followed in the southern states. Tennessee and Oklahoma improved their crop ratings by 10 points from last week for the percentage of crop rated good to excellent. Crop conditions in most of the southern states improved or remained unchanged from last week; the exceptions were North and South Carolina. Texas continued to have the lowest crop ratings with only 46 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, no change from last week.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)